IN THE SPECIFICATION:

1. Please amend the following paragraph starting on page 1, paragraph 2 as follows:

A polymer electrolyte fuel cell typically includes an anode and cathode electrode sandwiching a polymer membrane that selectively transports ions between the electrodes. The electrodes typically include a catalyst layer and a gas diffusion layer. The polymer membrane in combination with the anode and cathode electrodes is commonly refered to as a Membrane Electrode Assembly (MEA).

2. Please amend the following paragraph starting on page 3, paragraph 9 as follows:

An advantage of the present invention is a fuel cell that has a separator that can [[minimizes]] minimize damage to cell components upon assembly or during operation.

3. Please amend the following paragraph starting on page 3, paragraph 10 as follows:

According to the present invention, the foregoing and other advantages are achieved in part by a fuel cell separator that can minimize damage to a membrane upon assembly. The separator advantageously has a groove therein approximately positioned over an outer edge of an electrode of a fuel cell to reduce any pressure between the separator and the outer edge of the electrode upon assembly thereby minimizing any damage the electrode or layer thereof may inflict on the underlying membrane.